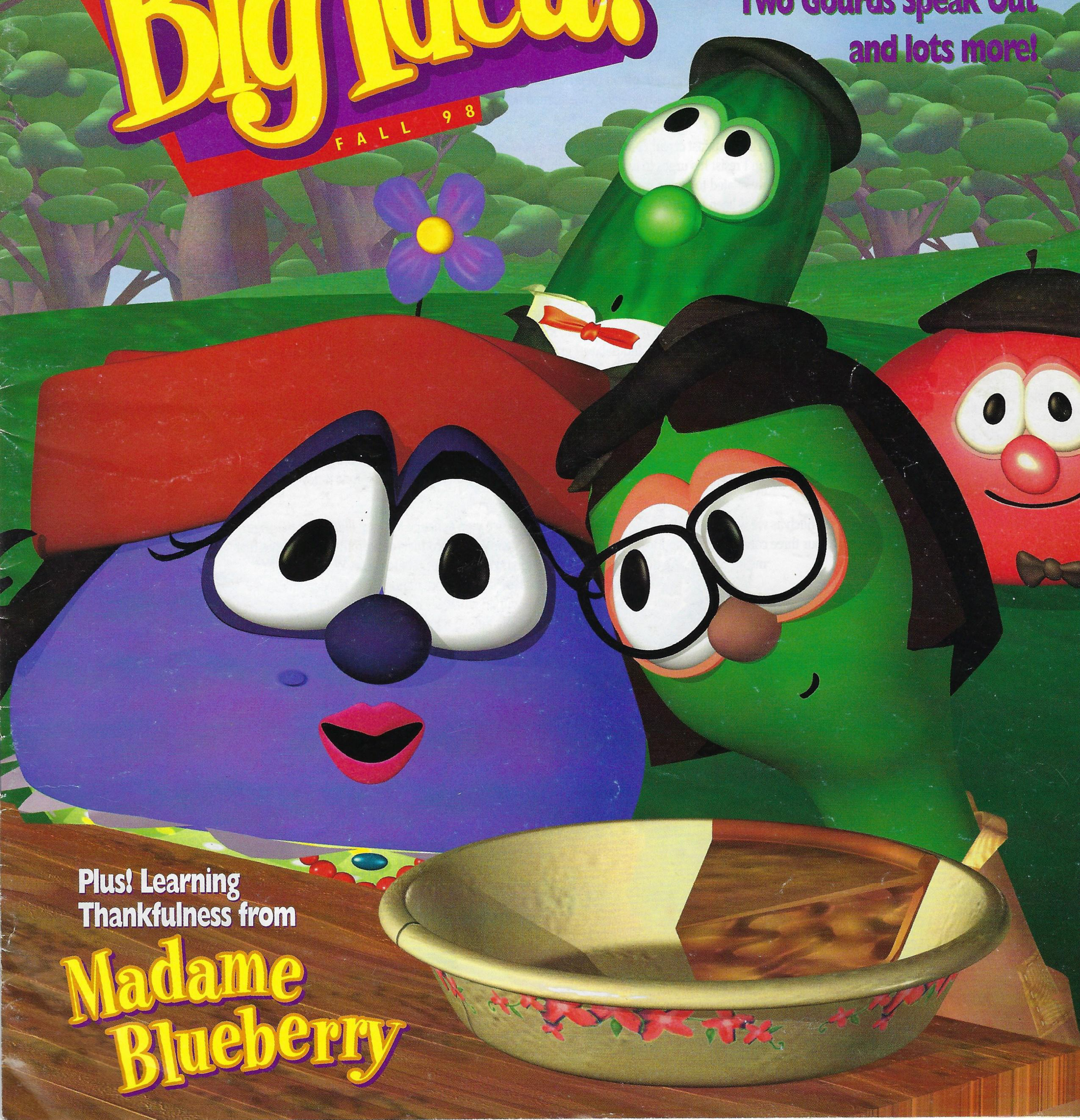
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BIG IDEA PRODUCTIONS

What's the Big Idea?

FALL 98

includes

Behind the Scenes
Coloring and Activities
Two Gourds Speak Out
and lots more!



Plus! Learning Thankfulness from

Madame Blueberry

"I want it!"

It's a cry that erupts frequently when our 3-year-old boy watches television. A radio-controlled car. Kid-sized tools. Colored beads for girls to put in their hair. What "it" is is almost irrelevant. He wants it. He has to have it. Somehow, advertisers have learned how to turn our son into a quivering pile of consumerism.

"Craving" is in vogue. The breakfast cereal Honeycomb™ has a new mascot — a furry little beast called "Craver," who can't resist his urges to eat Honeycomb. Domino's Pizza's® new spokesman — "Dr. Craven." (Evidently related to Honeycomb's "Craver", but with a post-graduate degree.) The old Chef-Boyardee® slogan has been updated to the cryptic but emotional "Feed the Need!" - tagged onto ads featuring a teenage boy who can't control his urges to eat Beef-a-roni.™ Sprite's® new line — "Obey your thirst." Another national advertiser's products are now — "What you crave!" The message to kids is very simple: You need it. You want it. You won't be happy until you get it.

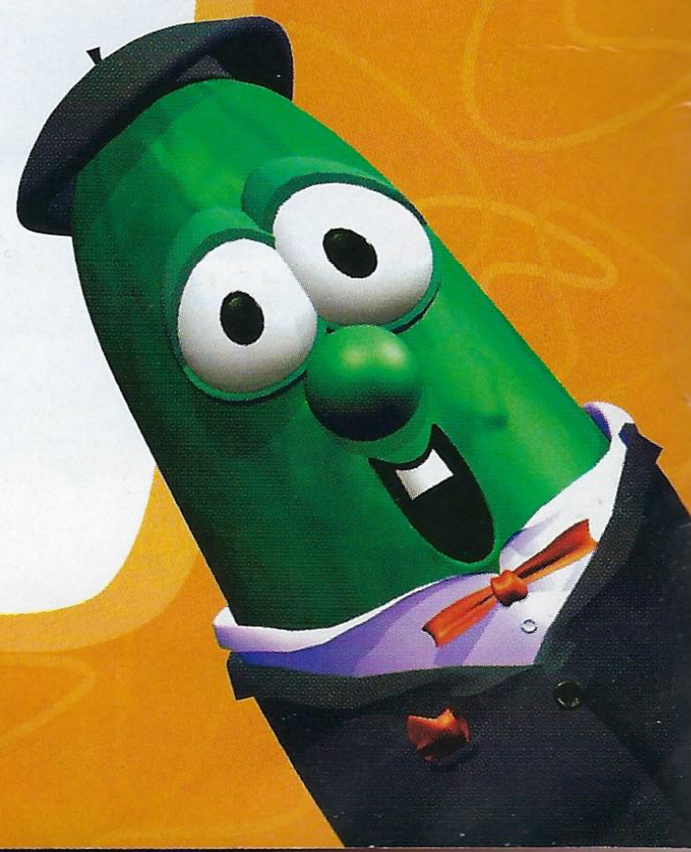
In his book, *The Disappearance of Childhood*, sociologist Neil Postman remarks that the two skills kids must learn in order for a civilized society to survive are self-control and delayed gratification. Hmm. Spend a morning watching the ads on a kids' network like *Nickelodeon* and you'll conclude that, if Mr. Postman is right, we're in deep trouble. Advertisers have apparently decided that self-control and delayed gratification are the exact opposites of the behaviors they need from kids.

Our newest video, *Madame Blueberry*, poses the question, "How much stuff do we need to be happy?" The final message — "Maybe a happy heart doesn't come from a store. Maybe a happy heart is a thankful heart." Growing up in the church, this message doesn't seem that radical — but frame it against our current culture of "crave" and it's downright shocking. It's practically dangerous! In fact, we've been warned that some of our larger retail partners may find *Madame Blueberry's* message offensive. That perhaps we might want to "tone it down a bit" for their sake.

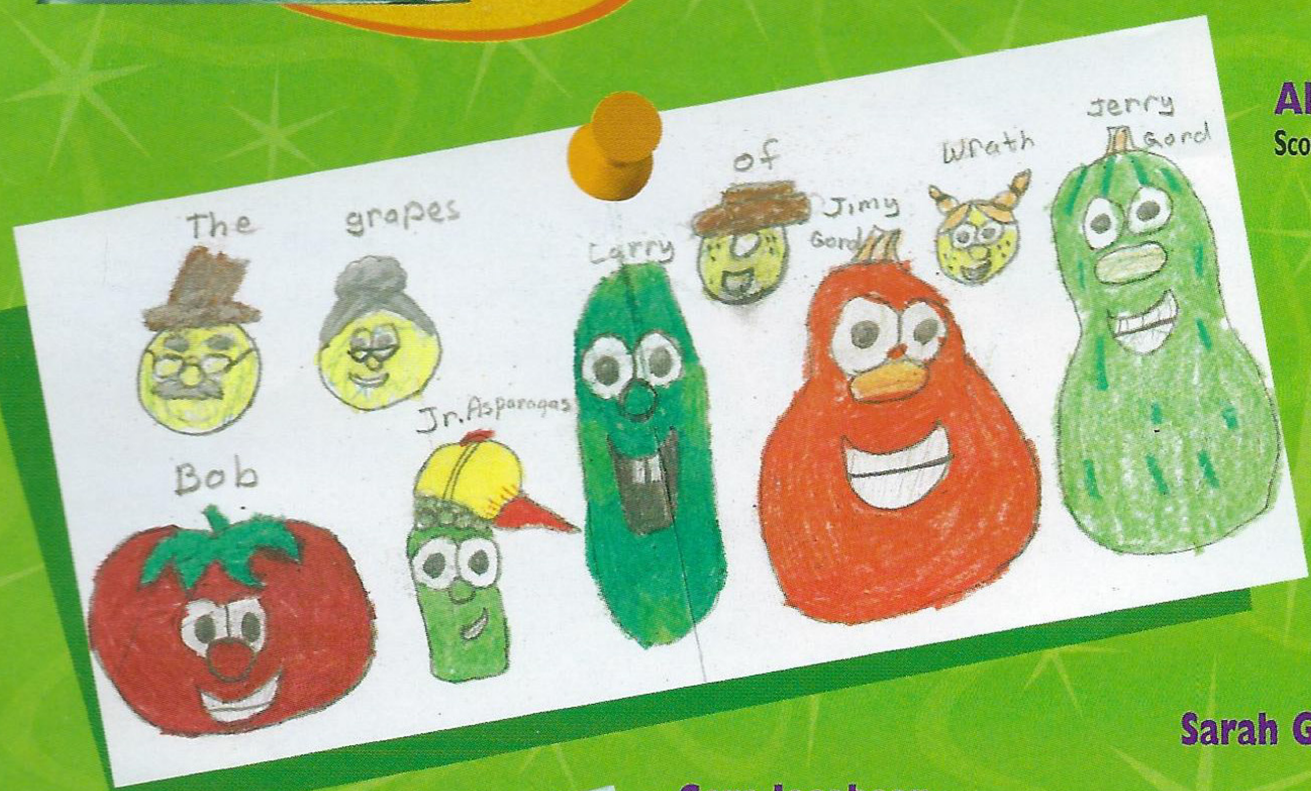
Well, as much as we want all our business partners to be happy, we won't change *Madame Blueberry's* message. One of our three core values at Big Idea is that we "prioritize people over products and profits." What does that mean? Simple. We don't put shareholders first. We don't put retailers first. We put kids first. The needs of your kids are simply more important to us than anything else. We at Big Idea will do whatever it takes to help you raise healthy, happy, Godly kids in a horribly muddled world. That is our promise.

Phillip Vischer
CEO/Chief Creative Officer

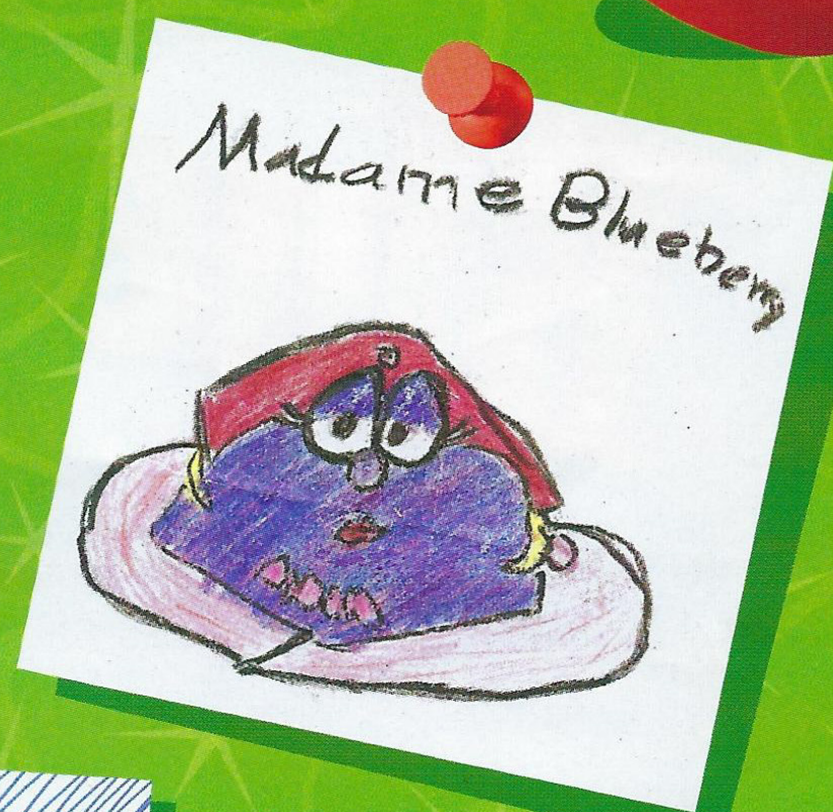
BIG IDEA™



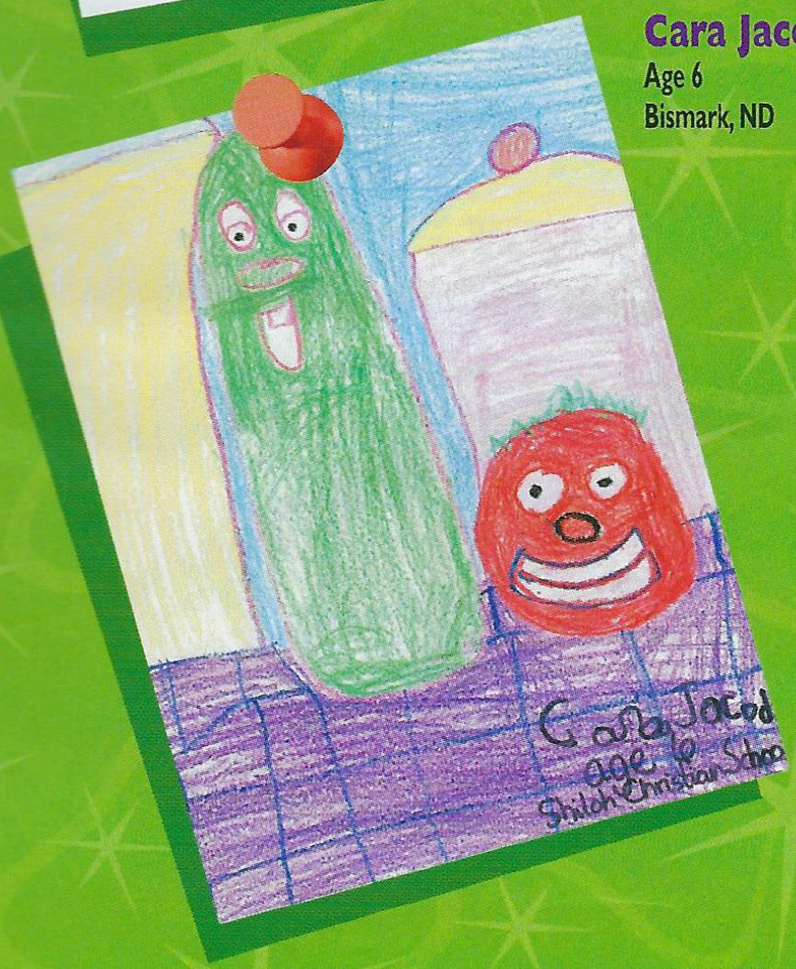
Fan Mail!



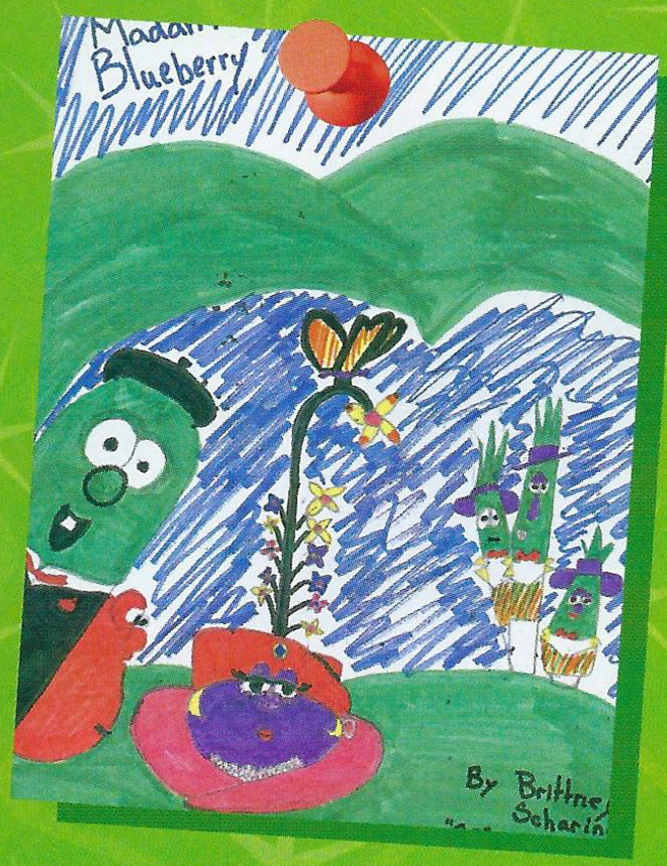
Allison Stanley
Scott City, KS



Sarah Gilbert
Age 8
Palmetto, FL

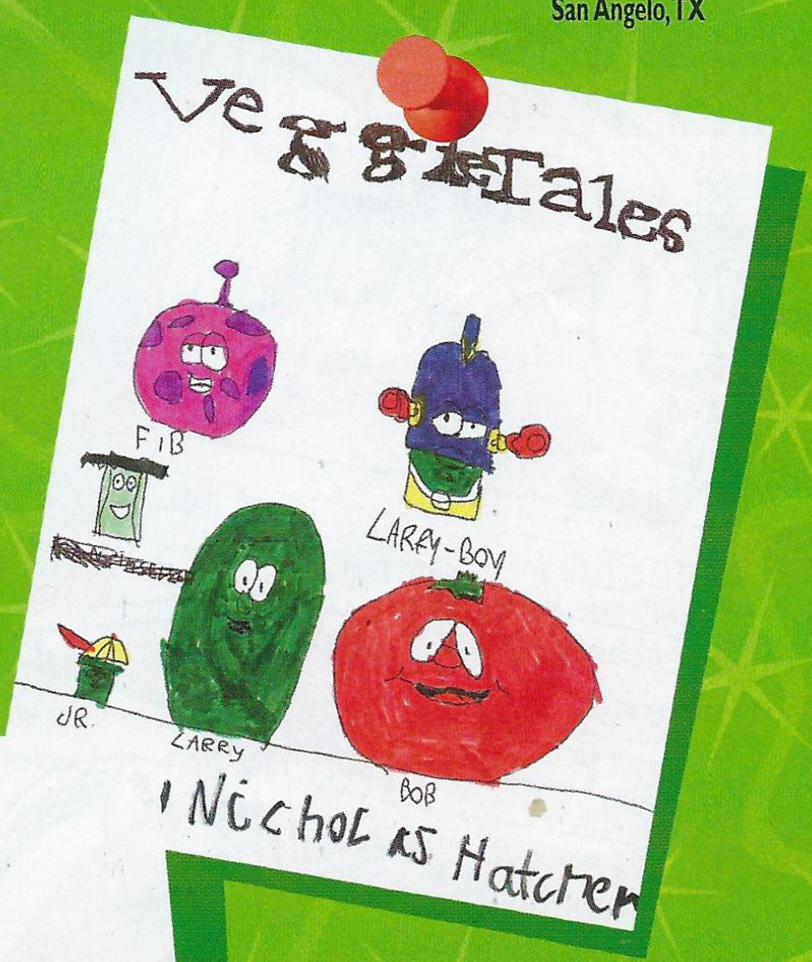


Cara Jacobson
Age 6
Bismark, ND

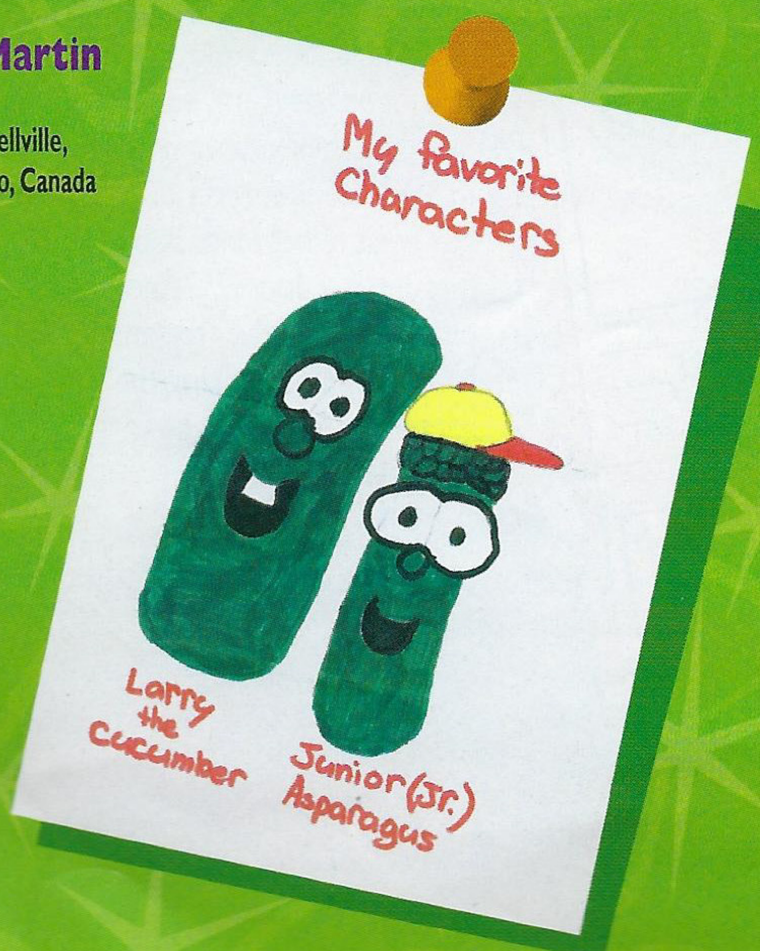


Brittney Scharine
Age 11
Whitewater, WI

Nicholas Hatcher
San Angelo, TX



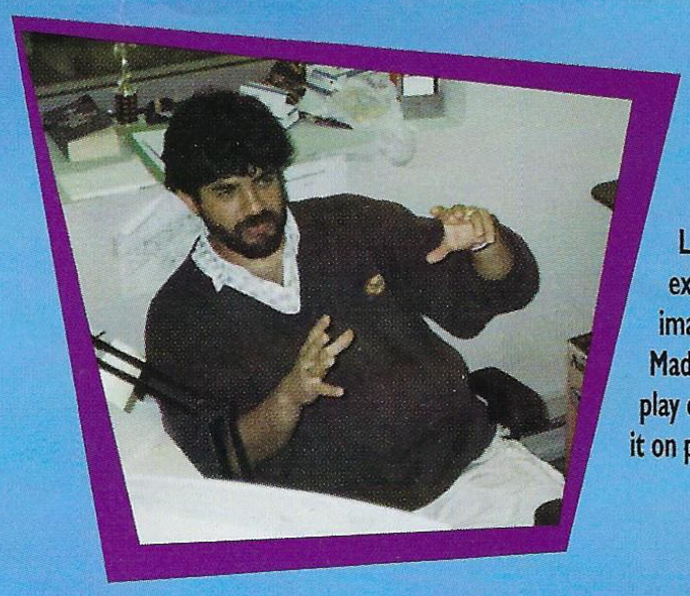
Jill Martin
Age 9
Campbellville, Ontario, Canada



Sarah Davis
Jacksonville, FL

Behind the Scenes Part 2

Madame Blueberry



Luis Contreras expressing how he imagines a scene in Madame Blueberry will play out, before sketching it on paper.

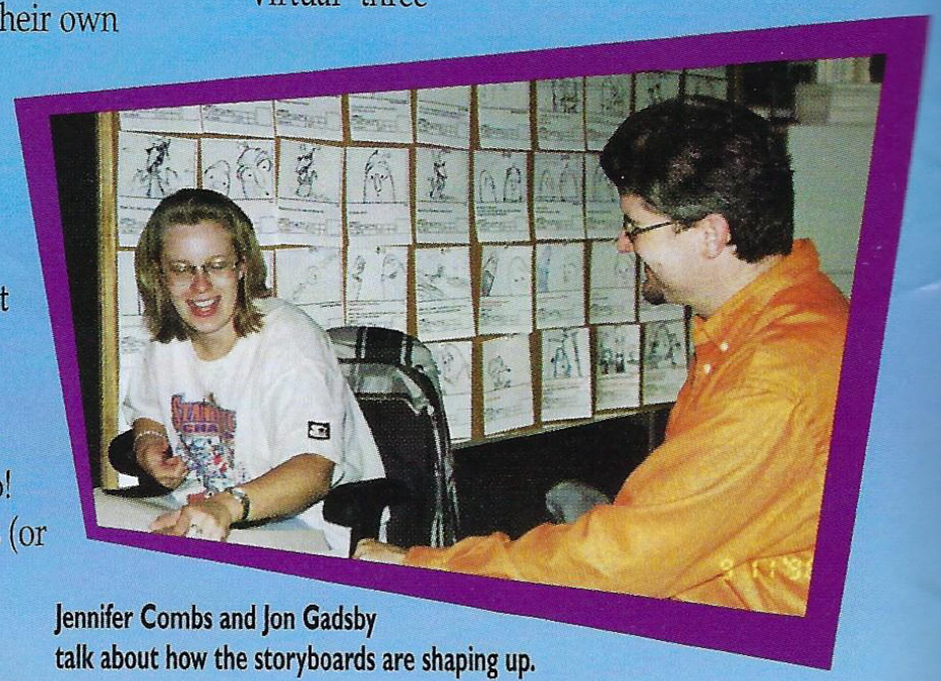
In our last issue of "What's the Big Idea?" we explained the first two steps in the creation of a *VeggieTales* video ... scriptwriting and conceptual design. Now that we have a finished script and a huge stack of approved art, it's time for the next stops on our journey — storyboarding, layout and voice recording!

Storyboarding and Layout

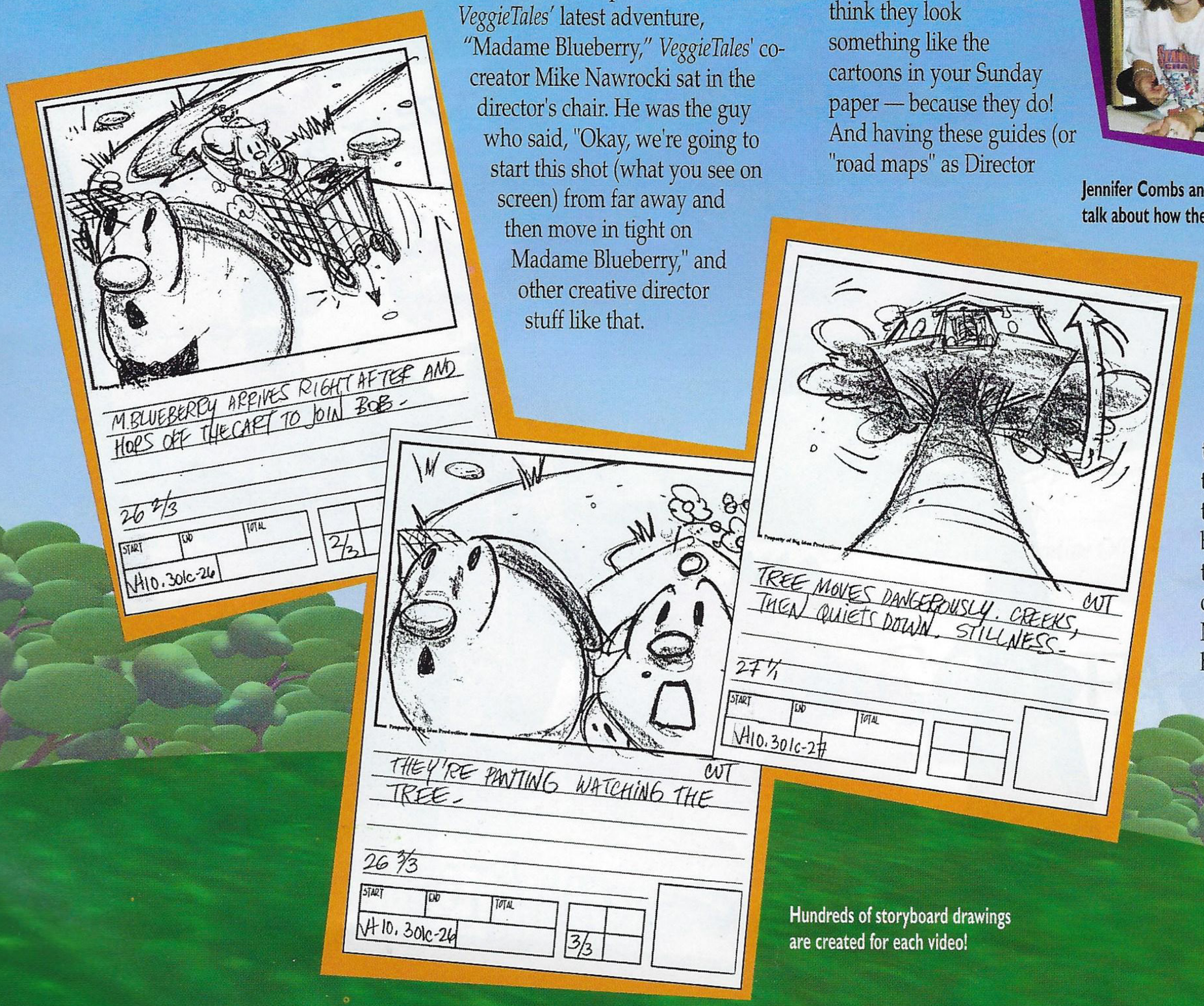
"Basically, we're creating the film on paper." That's how Big Idea founder Phil Vischer describes the "storyboarding" process, the first in the next series of steps toward making *VeggieTales*. At this point the script is done, the characters and sets are designed and everything is ready for the director to step in and direct. For *VeggieTales'* latest adventure, "Madame Blueberry," *VeggieTales'* co-creator Mike Nawrocki sat in the director's chair. He was the guy who said, "Okay, we're going to start this shot (what you see on screen) from far away and then move in tight on Madame Blueberry," and other creative director stuff like that.

Meanwhile, storyboard artists Luis Contreras and Everett Downing are listening to everything Mike says, visualizing the script in their own heads and then somehow putting all that down on paper in actual sketches. As you see the storyboards come together, you might think they look something like the cartoons in your Sunday paper — because they do! And having these guides (or "road maps" as Director Mike likes to call 'em) helps everyone to see how the show will all fit together when it's finished.

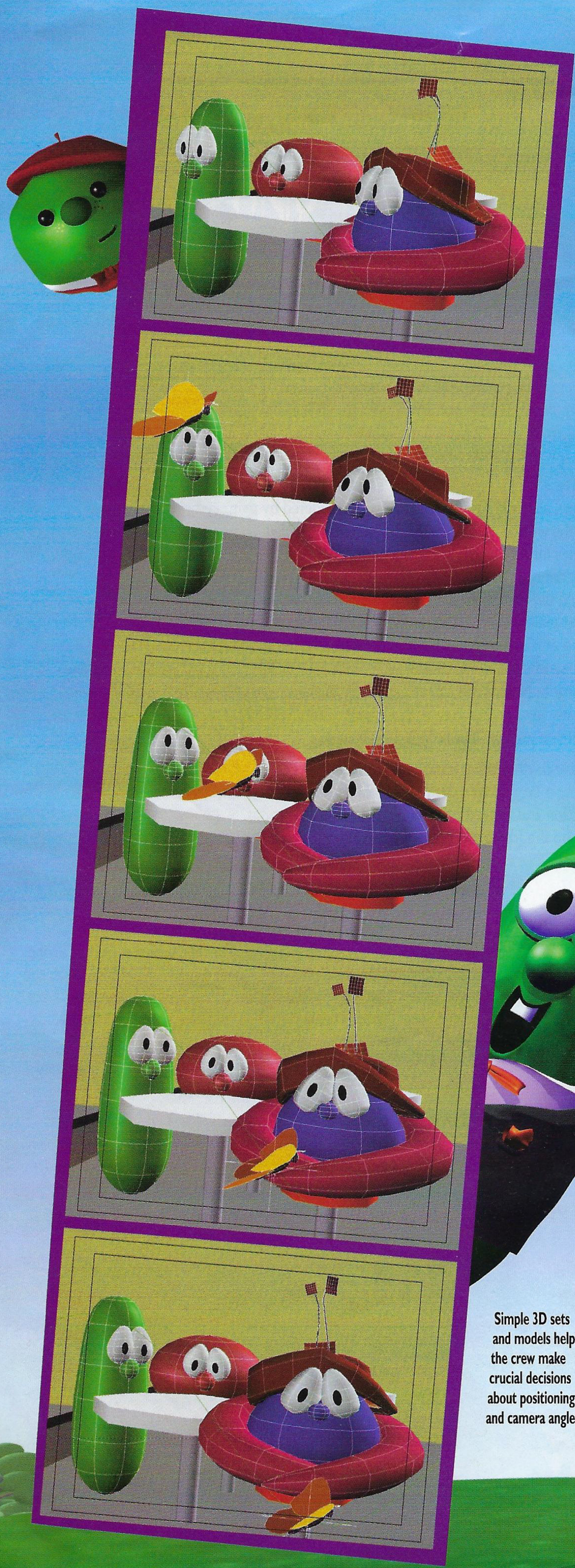
Now, here's where things get a little confusing. The next step in this whole process is called "layout." In traditional animation, layout artists make detailed drawings of each shot, showing exactly how the characters will interact with the background set. *VeggieTales* is 3D computer animation, however, so at this point the process changes radically from traditional animation. Because Bob and Larry exist in a "virtual" three-dimensional world, this is the step where the characters and the camera are placed into the set to see if the shot will work the way the director had hoped. Phil compares 3D layout to what is called "blocking" in live theater or television production. "Is that lamp blocking Junior? How close to Madame Blueberry does the tissue box need to be? Does Bob even fit through the door?!?" "And fairly often," Phil laughs, "the answer is NO! — it's not working the way we had hoped."



Jennifer Combs and Jon Gadsby talk about how the storyboards are shaping up.



Hundreds of storyboard drawings are created for each video!



Simple 3D sets and models help the crew make crucial decisions about positioning and camera angles.

That's when the crack team of layout artists really get their hands dirty — digging in and finding new options to bring the director's vision back to life!

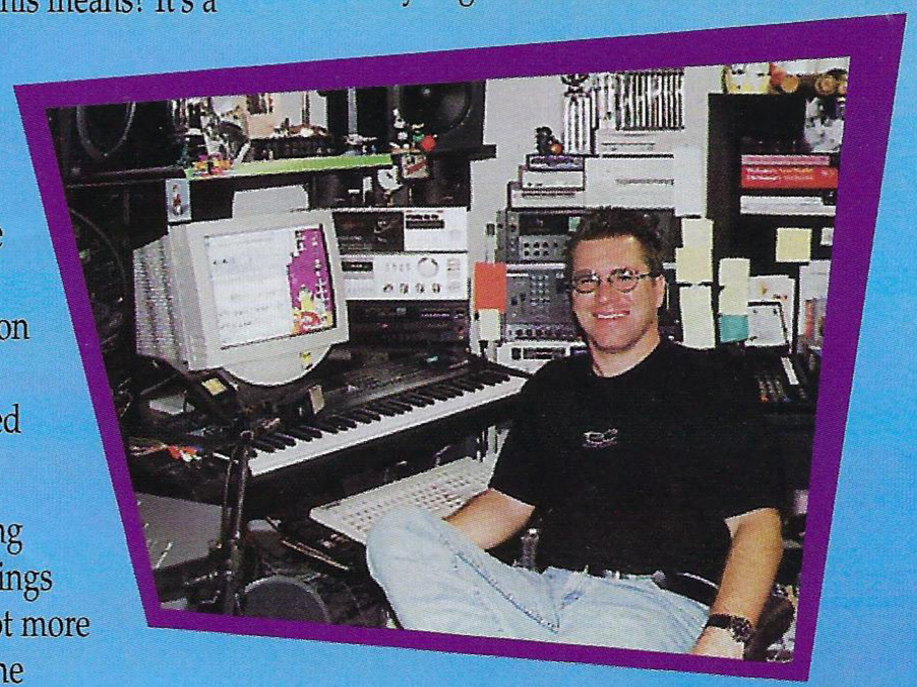
Another term for this process, says the ever-enlightening Phil Vischer, is "pre-visualization," because it's really where you try to get a "feel" for your work before you actually produce the footage. Having trouble pre-visualizing what all this means? It's a pretty complicated process making Bob and Larry and all their friends come to life, but it's worth all the finicky attention to details when you finally see the finished masterpiece.

But wait, we're getting waaaaay ahead of things here. There's still a lot more to do before "Madame Blueberry" gets shipped to your favorite store. A lot!

Voice Recording

People often ask whether the voices for animated films are recorded before or after the animation is done. Ever since the first talking cartoon character came to life, the voices have been recorded first. It's much easier for the animators to match their animation to the voices than the other way around. By recording the voices first, not only can the lips be lined up perfectly, but the animators will often take inspiration from the way an actor said a particular line.

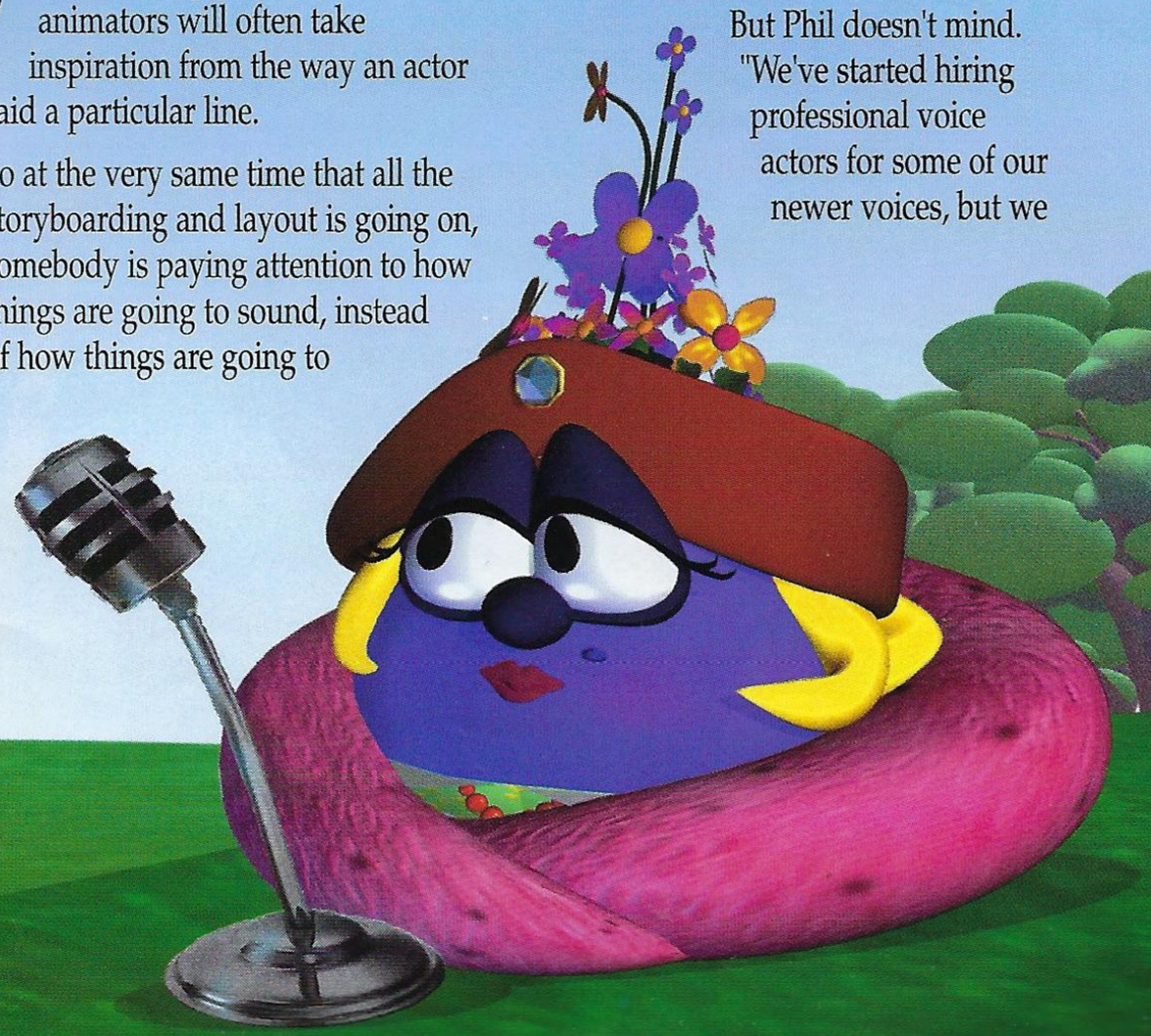
So at the very same time that all the storyboarding and layout is going on, somebody is paying attention to how things are going to sound, instead of how things are going to look. That man is Big Idea's Director of Music, Kurt Heinecke. Heinecke is the musical guy behind some of your favorite Silly Songs with Larry, plus most all of the music you hear during a *VeggieTales* video. But Kurt's job doesn't stop with music—he's also an important part of getting all the dialogue recorded for each video. And it can't be easy working with a bunch of rowdy vegetables!



Kurt Heinecke, Big Idea's Director of Music, with just some of the gear used to make that "veggie sound!"

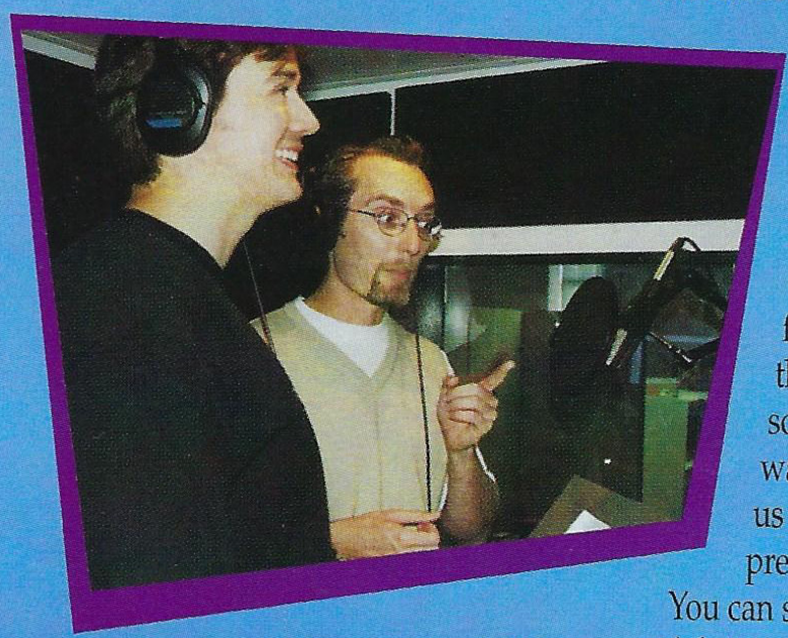
Actually, Kurt doesn't even see tomatoes or cucumbers or blueberries when they're recording voices— he gets to work with their human counterparts, Phil and Mike (the voices of Bob and Larry), and all the other actors who lend their voices to the garden of sound! Most of the voices you'll hear on *VeggieTales* belong to Phil, Mike or Lisa Vischer (Phil's wife, who plays Jr. Asparagus) and a number of friends and relatives of the Big Idea gang. They all "got the gig" when *VeggieTales* was just getting started, so most of them aren't even "professional" vocal actors.

But Phil doesn't mind. "We've started hiring professional voice actors for some of our newer voices, but we



can't change the old characters now, because we just love them to death," he says. "So it might take longer, but we're always happy with the results!" Music Director Kurt even claims he got a part as "Sheep Number 3" in the Christmas video.

And if you listen very closely to an upcoming *VeggieTales* video, you'll hear the voice of Henry, Big Idea's receptionist! He auditioned for a new part along with all the other folks at Big Idea and won the role! It's always fun to keep things in the family. Speaking of family, if you ever got the chance to watch voices being recorded, you'd probably feel like you were in the middle of one big, happy family. Phil and Mike say it's one of the most fun parts of making a video.



Phil Vischer (voice of Bob the Tomato) and Mike Nawrocki (voice of Larry the Cucumber) ham it up in the sound booth.

For "Madame Blueberry", Kurt acted as sound engineer with director Mike at his side. That means that as each actor read his or her lines, Mike was coaching the performer on just the right accent, emotion or inflection the character needed. At the same time, Kurt was making sure the sound was just right, digitally recording everything and monitoring the actors as they spoke. He even let us in on a little secret: almost every character gets what's called a "pitch-shift." That means Kurt uses some computer wizardry to make everyone's voice just a little bit higher.

"That," says Kurt, "makes everyone sound just a little bit sillier."

Usually, each actor completes his lines alone in a sound booth, with only Kurt and Mike offering suggestions and reading off the other lines to help smooth the process. When Phil and Mike are ready to record Bob and Larry's "countertop" dialogs, however, they'll usually head into the booth together. That way they can ad lib to their heart's content (and nobody can get mad at them for changing the script—because they wrote the script!) and work off of each other's unique sense of humor.

"We get kinda goofy in the sound booth," says Mike, "but we have a ton of fun! Our booth actually faces windows to the rest of the office so anyone can walk by and watch us in action. It's pretty hilarious. You can see us, but you can't hear us. I imagine we look like complete fools!"

It never gets boring over at Big Idea — after all, what could be more fun than watching your bosses goofing off in a glass cage? But even through all the fun, every one of the talented people who make *VeggieTales* remembers that the real purpose of their art and efforts is to improve people's lives by bringing them closer to God. That's why they work so hard on every show!

Join us next issue as we show you more of how *VeggieTales* is brought to life! And by the way, if you have a question about the making of *VeggieTales*, or if you just want to tell us about YOU, why don't you drop us a line at:

Big Idea Productions
PO Box 697167
Chicago, IL 60661

or e-mail wtbi@bigidea.com.

We'd love to hear from you!

Git Along, Little Veggies

Meet James Breckenridge, Senior Artist

What kind of person would move from Southern California to Chicago for the opportunity to lay out? James Breckenridge would! But before you begin to question the guy's sanity, you should know that his "laying out" has nothing to do with sun or sand. His position as a Senior Artist at Big Idea includes a number of responsibilities, including layout—the point in the production process where two-dimensional storyboards are turned into rough, 3D scenes.

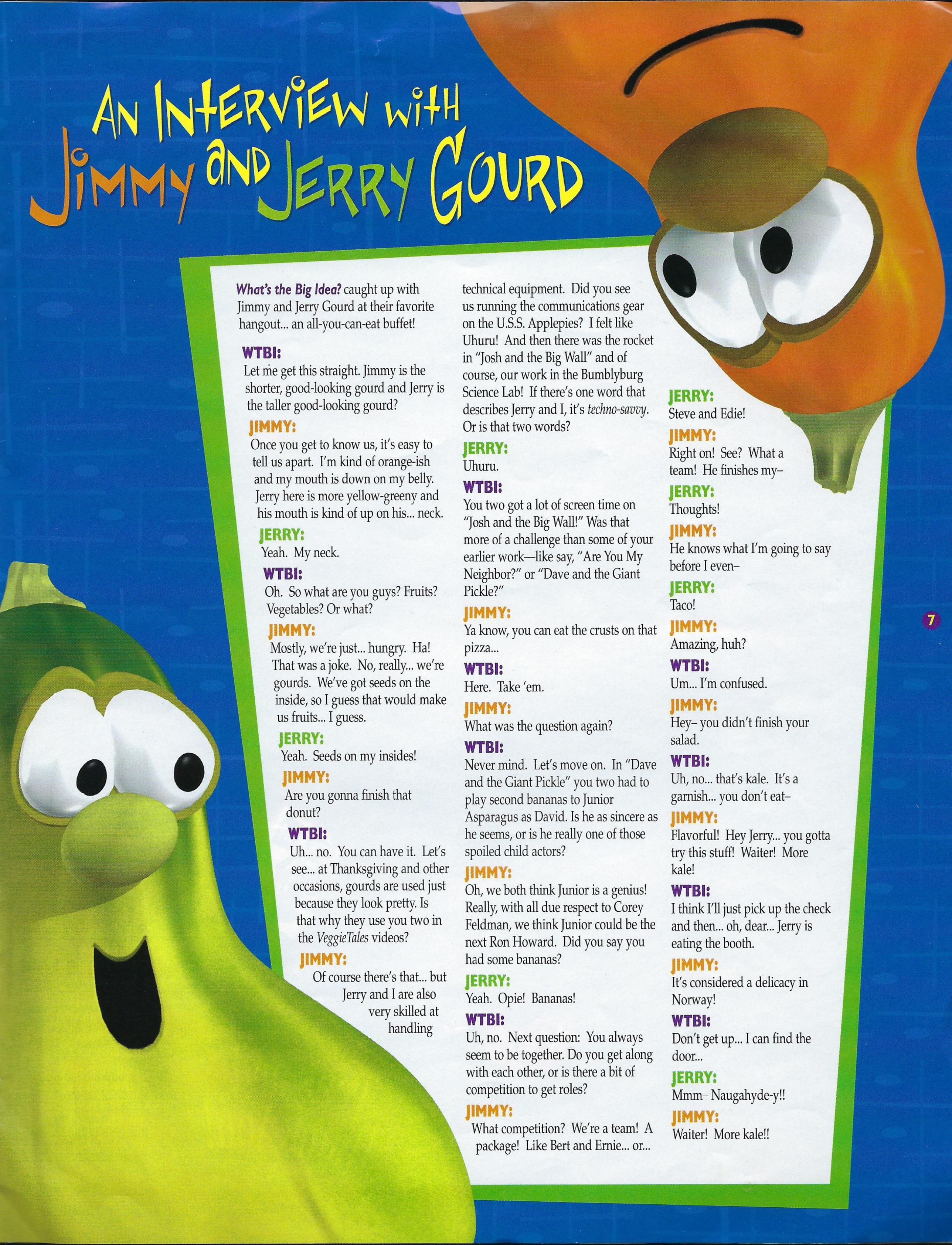
But layout is only one of many jobs done by James. He illustrates, he designs, he draws storyboards, he creates rough sets and props—you name it. In fact, his wide-ranging skills have led to his being dubbed "The Cowboy" around the office. Luckily, it wasn't too tough to "wrangle" an interview out of him.

The son of a preacher, James' artistic skills and love of animation earned him a spot at the California Institute of the Arts (considered by many to be the top animation school in the world). While he never completely rejected his parents' faith, it wasn't until James found himself in the rigors of Air Force basic training (to pay for college) that he experienced what he calls a spiritual "turning point." James decided that some day he would use his artistic skills to tell stories that reflected his faith in God. Such projects are, unfortunately, hard to find in Hollywood. James' skills got him noticed, and he soon landed an internship at Disney, working on layout for the film "Beauty and the Beast." Impressed by his work, Disney soon offered him a full-time job. But working as an animator in Hollywood can be extremely demanding in terms of time requirements, especially for a young man with a growing family. And James still clung to his dream of working on projects that reflected his beliefs.

Then one day he was visiting his mom, a daycare provider. The kids happened to be watching a *VeggieTales* video, which got James' attention. Impressed with the quality of the production and thrilled with its Judeo-Christian foundation, he took note of the producer, looked up Big Idea Productions on the Internet, and began ongoing correspondence with the staff. Eventually he met with Big Idea at a convention in Los Angeles, and before long was offered a job. In mid 1997 he moved from L.A. to sunny Chicago with his pregnant wife Debbie and 2 year-old daughter, Heather. Daniel was added to the family soon after. Happily ensconced in Chicago's western suburbs, Debbie is one of two people who answer e-mail for Big Idea, a job she can enjoy while tending to the kids at home. (With a background in literature, she's up to the challenge!)

What does the future hold for James? The vast variety of work and continual changes at Big Idea are only likely to increase, ensuring that "The Cowboy" will continue to ride. The next time you're laughing at a *VeggieTales* video, think of James Breckenridge and wish him happy trails!

An Interview with Jimmy and Jerry Gourd



What's the Big Idea? caught up with Jimmy and Jerry Gourd at their favorite hangout... an all-you-can-eat buffet!

WTBI:
Let me get this straight. Jimmy is the shorter, good-looking gourd and Jerry is the taller good-looking gourd?

JIMMY:
Once you get to know us, it's easy to tell us apart. I'm kind of orange-ish and my mouth is down on my belly. Jerry here is more yellow-greeny and his mouth is kind of up on his... neck.

JERRY:
Yeah. My neck.

WTBI:
Oh. So what are you guys? Fruits? Vegetables? Or what?

JIMMY:
Mostly, we're just... hungry. Ha! That was a joke. No, really... we're gourds. We've got seeds on the inside, so I guess that would make us fruits... I guess.

JERRY:
Yeah. Seeds on my insides!

JIMMY:
Are you gonna finish that donut?

WTBI:
Uh... no. You can have it. Let's see... at Thanksgiving and other occasions, gourds are used just because they look pretty. Is that why they use you two in the *VeggieTales* videos?

JIMMY:
Of course there's that... but Jerry and I are also very skilled at handling technical equipment. Did you see us running the communications gear on the U.S.S. Applepies? I felt like Uhuru! And then there was the rocket in "Josh and the Big Wall" and of course, our work in the Bumblyburg Science Lab! If there's one word that describes Jerry and I, it's *techno-savvy*. Or is that two words?

JERRY:
Uhuru.

WTBI:
You two got a lot of screen time on "Josh and the Big Wall!" Was that more of a challenge than some of your earlier work—like say, "Are You My Neighbor?" or "Dave and the Giant Pickle?"

JIMMY:
Ya know, you can eat the crusts on that pizza...

WTBI:
Here. Take 'em.

JIMMY:
What was the question again?

WTBI:
Never mind. Let's move on. In "Dave and the Giant Pickle" you two had to play second bananas to Junior Asparagus as David. Is he as sincere as he seems, or is he really one of those spoiled child actors?

JIMMY:
Oh, we both think Junior is a genius! Really, with all due respect to Corey Feldman, we think Junior could be the next Ron Howard. Did you say you had some bananas?

JERRY:
Yeah. Opie! Bananas!

WTBI:
Uh, no. Next question: You always seem to be together. Do you get along with each other, or is there a bit of competition to get roles?

JIMMY:
What competition? We're a team! A package! Like Bert and Ernie... or...

JERRY:
Steve and Edie!

JIMMY:
Right on! See? What a team! He finishes my–

JERRY:
Thoughts!

JIMMY:
He knows what I'm going to say before I even–

JERRY:
Taco!

JIMMY:
Amazing, huh?

WTBI:
Um... I'm confused.

JIMMY:
Hey– you didn't finish your salad.

WTBI:
Uh, no... that's kale. It's a garnish... you don't eat–

JIMMY:
Flavorful! Hey Jerry... you gotta try this stuff! Waiter! More kale!

WTBI:
I think I'll just pick up the check and then... oh, dear... Jerry is eating the booth.

JIMMY:
It's considered a delicacy in Norway!

WTBI:
Don't get up... I can find the door...

JERRY:
Mmm– Naugahyde-y!!

JIMMY:
Waiter! More kale!!

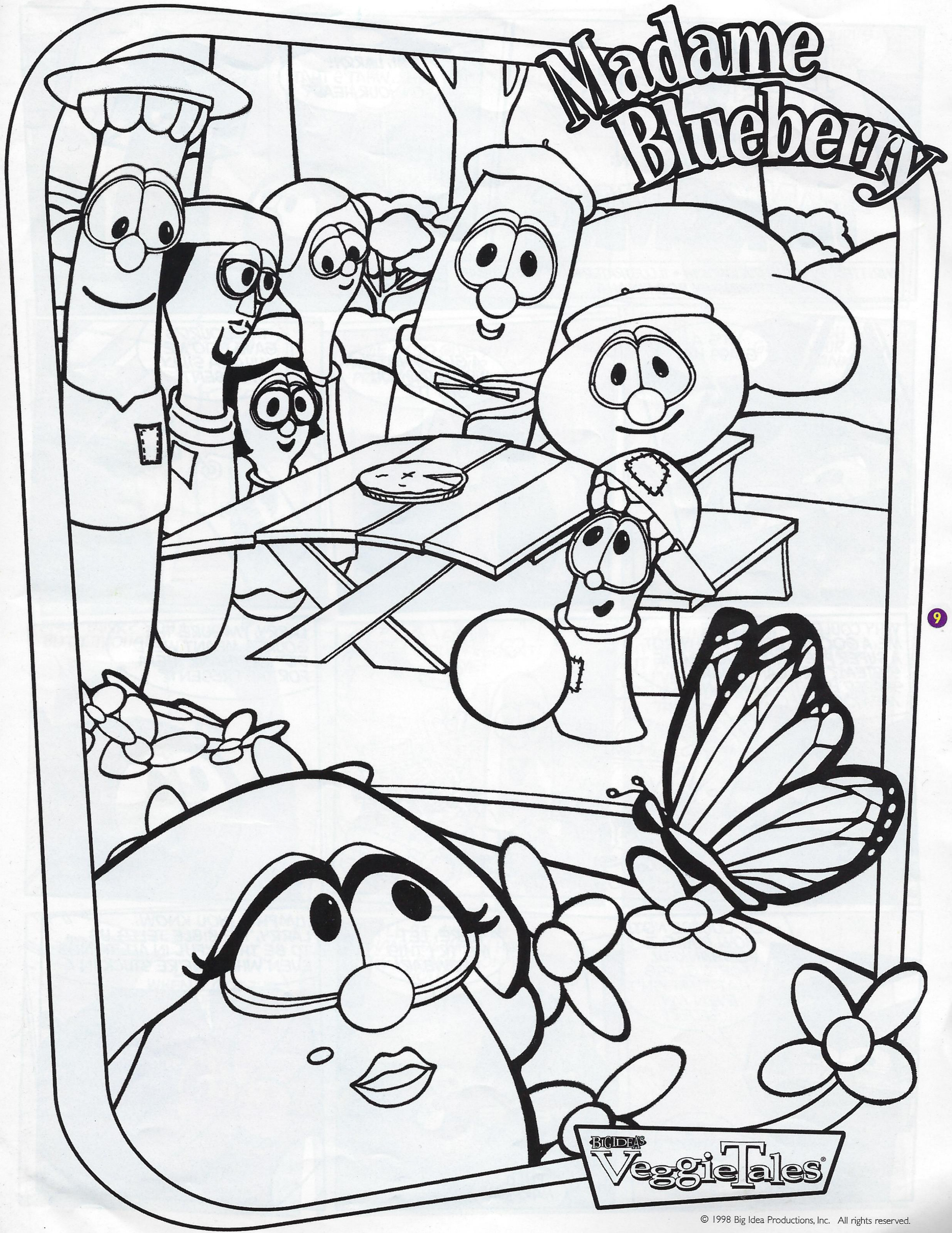
Grab a Cart!

Larry's gotta find his way down to Madame Blueberry's treehouse before it's too late! Can you figure out which way to go?

Peas and Thank You!

There certainly are a lot of Stuff Mart peas hanging around! Can you count how many peas are on this page? Also, can you count how many things you have to be thankful for?

(The answers to all the puzzles are on the back of this newsletter)



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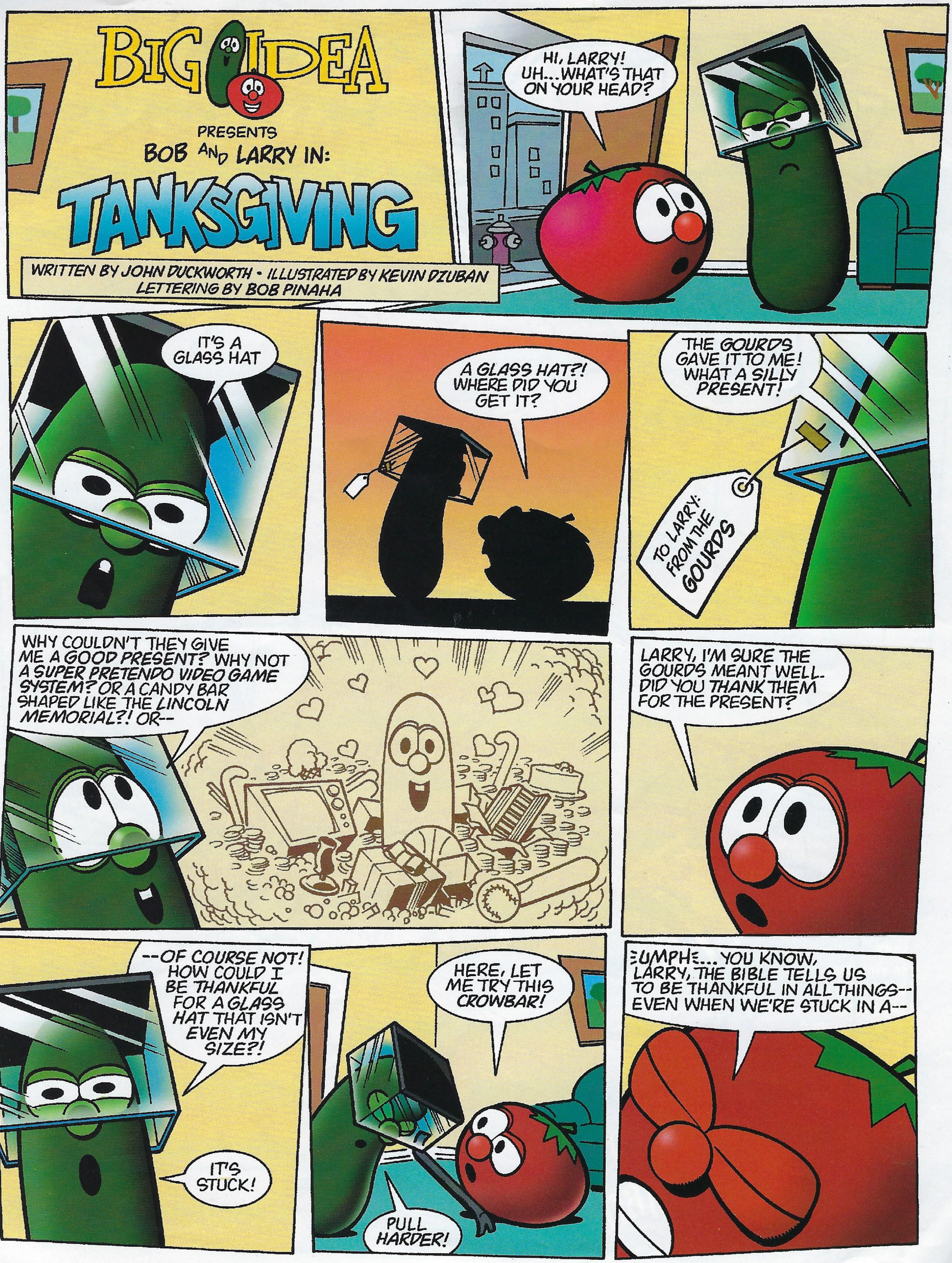
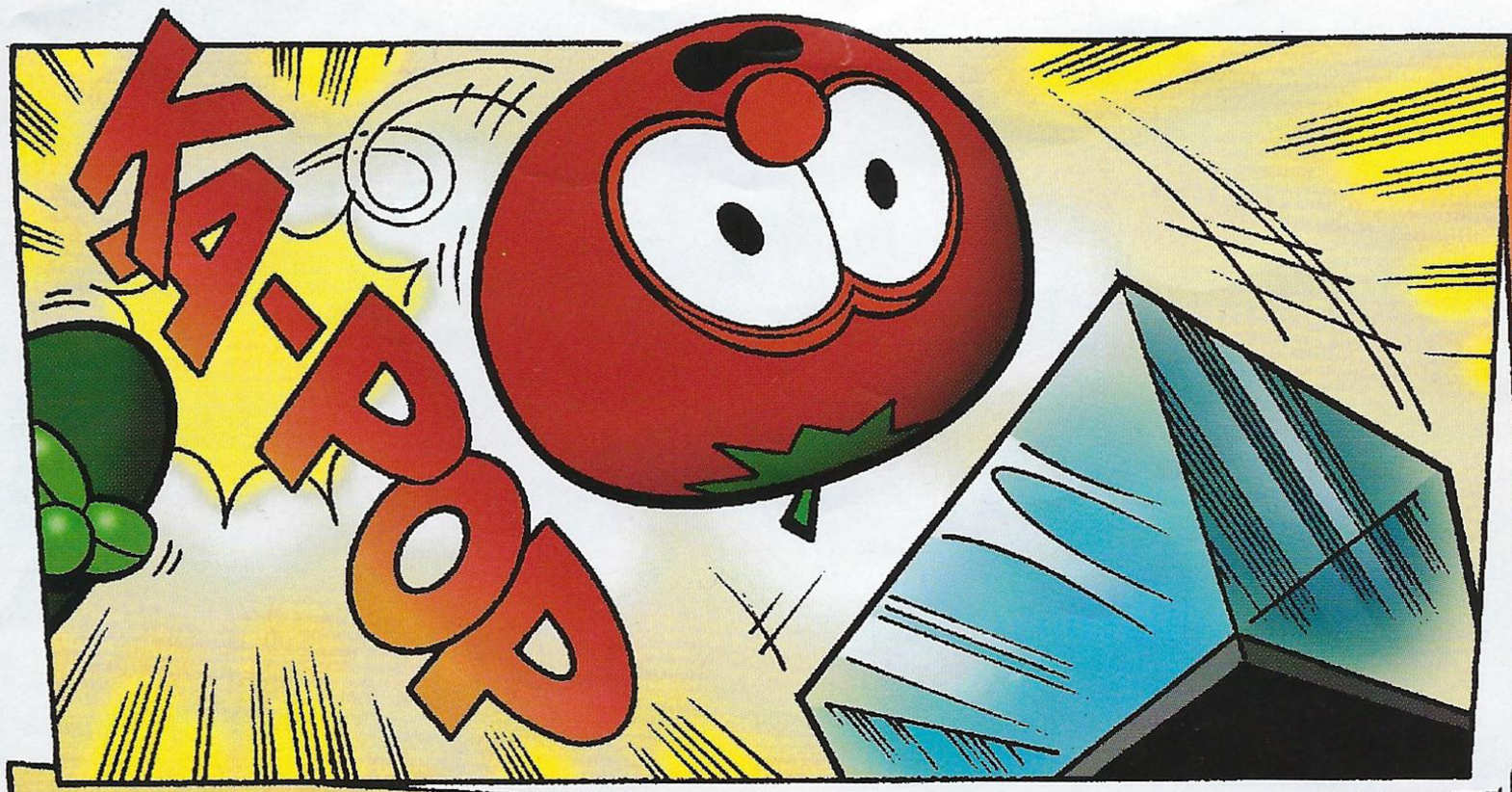
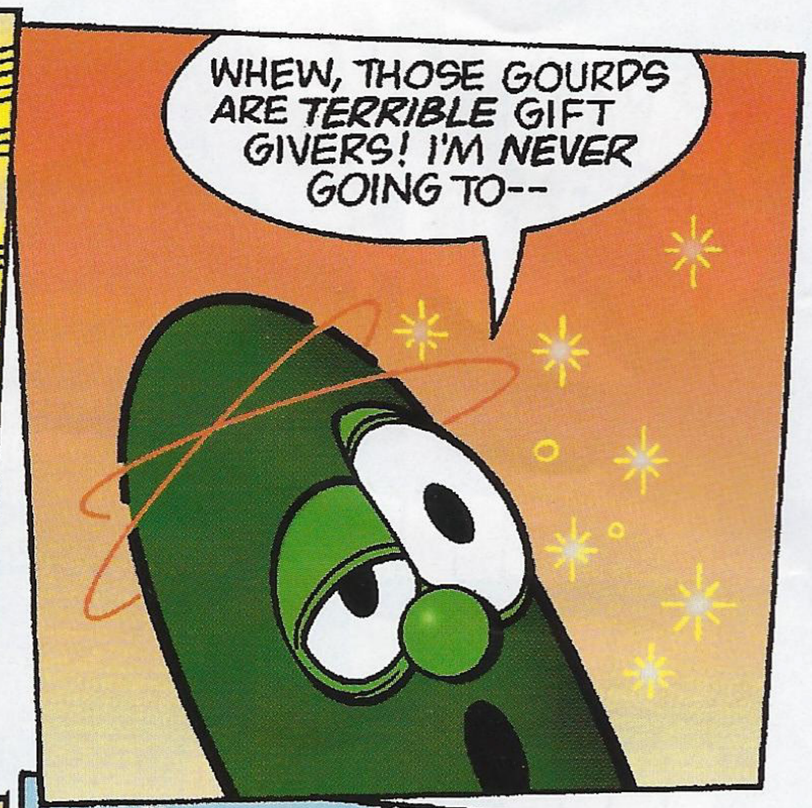
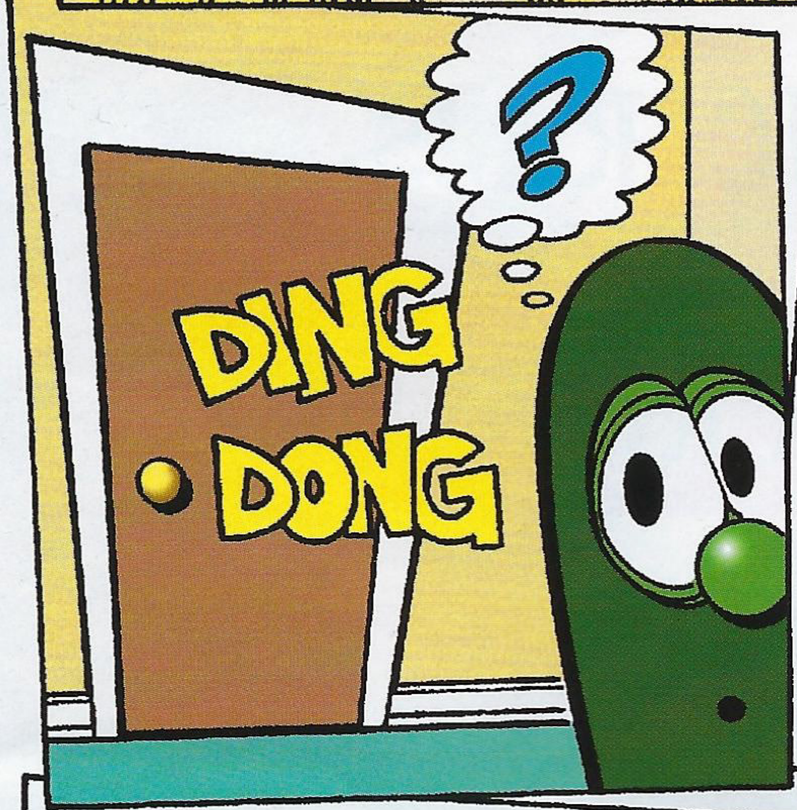

BIG IDEA
PRESENTS
BOB AND LARRY IN:
TANKSGIVING
WRITTEN BY JOHN DUCKWORTH • ILLUSTRATED BY KEVIN DZUBAN
LETTERING BY BOB PINAHA
HI, LARRY! UH...WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR HEAD?
IT'S A GLASS HAT
A GLASS HAT?! WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
THE GOURDS GAVE IT TO ME! WHAT A SILLY PRESENT!
TO LARRY: FROM THE GOURDS
WHY COULDN'T THEY GIVE ME A GOOD PRESENT? WHY NOT A SUPER PRETENDO VIDEO GAME SYSTEM? OR A CANDY BAR SHAPED LIKE THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL?! OR--
LARRY, I'M SURE THE GOURDS MEANT WELL. DID YOU THANK THEM FOR THE PRESENT?
--OF COURSE NOT! HOW COULD I BE THANKFUL FOR A GLASS HAT THAT ISN'T EVEN MY SIZE?!
IT'S STUCK!
HERE, LET ME TRY THIS CROWBAR!
PULL HARDER!
UMPH... YOU KNOW, LARRY, THE BIBLE TELLS US TO BE THANKFUL IN ALL THINGS-- EVEN WHEN WE'RE STUCK IN A--

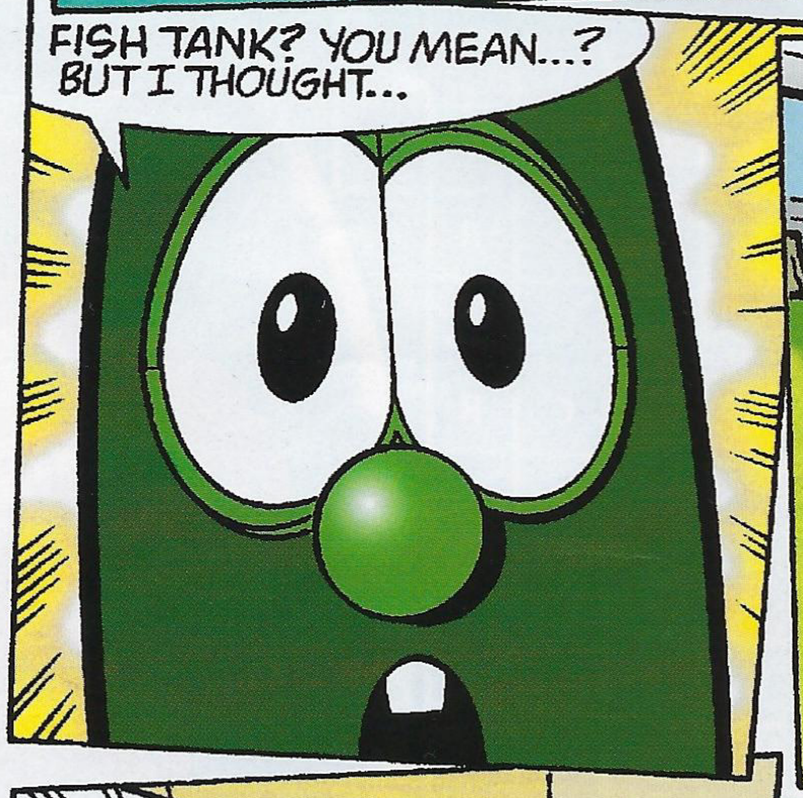

KA-POP

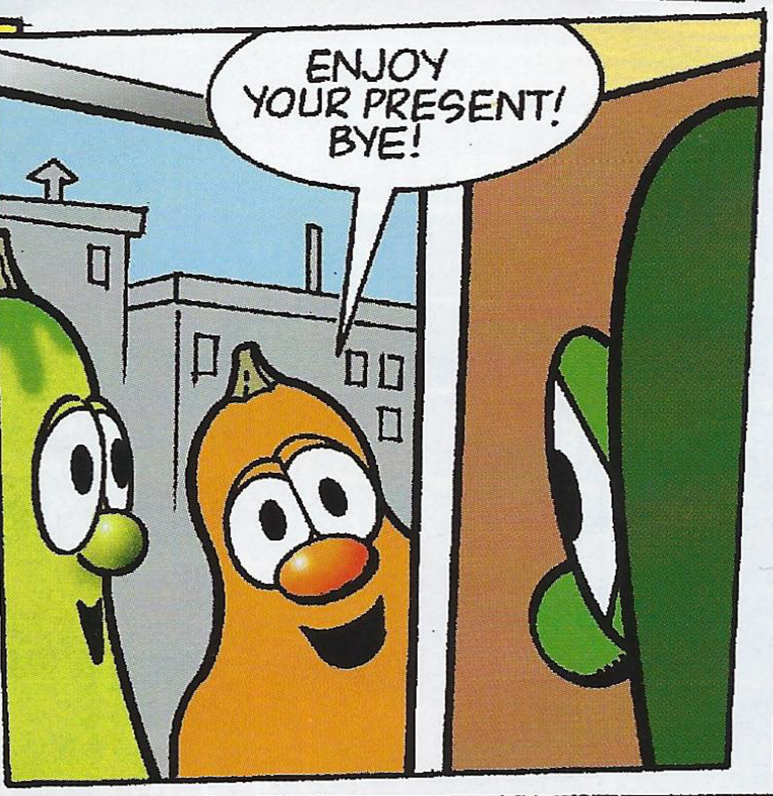

WHEW, THOSE GOURDS ARE TERRIBLE GIFT GIVERS! I'M NEVER GOING TO--


?
DING DONG

OH, HI, LARRY, WE JUST CAME BY TO GIVE YOU THE REST OF YOUR PRESENT!

IT'S A FISH TO GO IN YOUR NEW FISH TANK!


FISH TANK? YOU MEAN...? BUT I THOUGHT...


ENJOY YOUR PRESENT! BYE!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, BOB? IT WASN'T A GLASS HAT AT ALL! IT WAS A FISH TANK! I'VE GOT TO GO THANK THEM!
UH... LARRY? I'M DOWN HERE! COULD YOU--

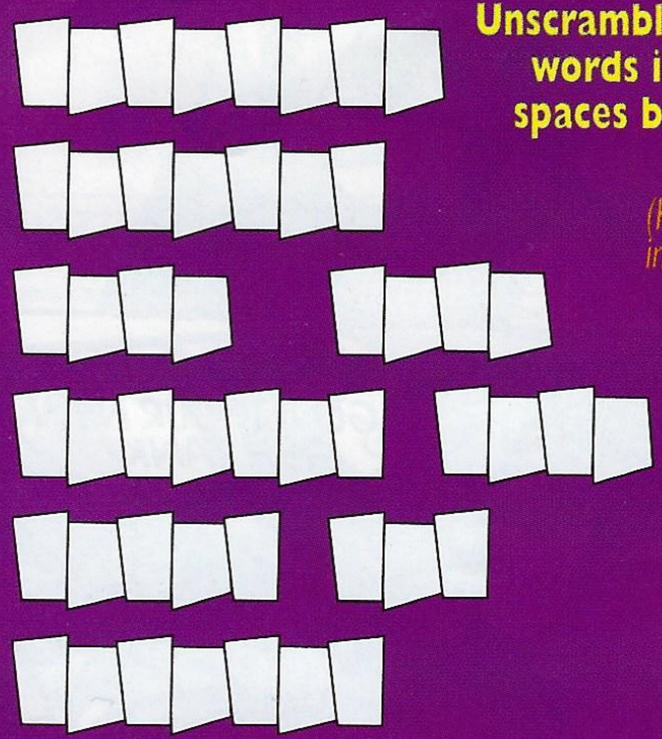
--LARRY? WHEN I GOT THE TANK OFF YOUR HEAD I--
SLAM!

--I'LL BE AWFULLY THANKFUL WHEN HE GETS BACK, WON'T YOU?

THE END

Scrambled Stuff

On these boxes are names of things that Madame Blueberry thought she needed to be happy! Unscramble the words in the spaces below.



RATLAFWE

(Hint: things you eat with)

MIJAMES

(Hint: things you sleep in)

KISN

(Hint: a thing in the kitchen)

FAOS

(Hint: a thing you sit on)

RAMECIC RAJS

(Hint: things to put food in)

KOCRC TOP

(Hint: a thing you cook in)

SIPADOL

(Hint: a thing in the kitchen sink)

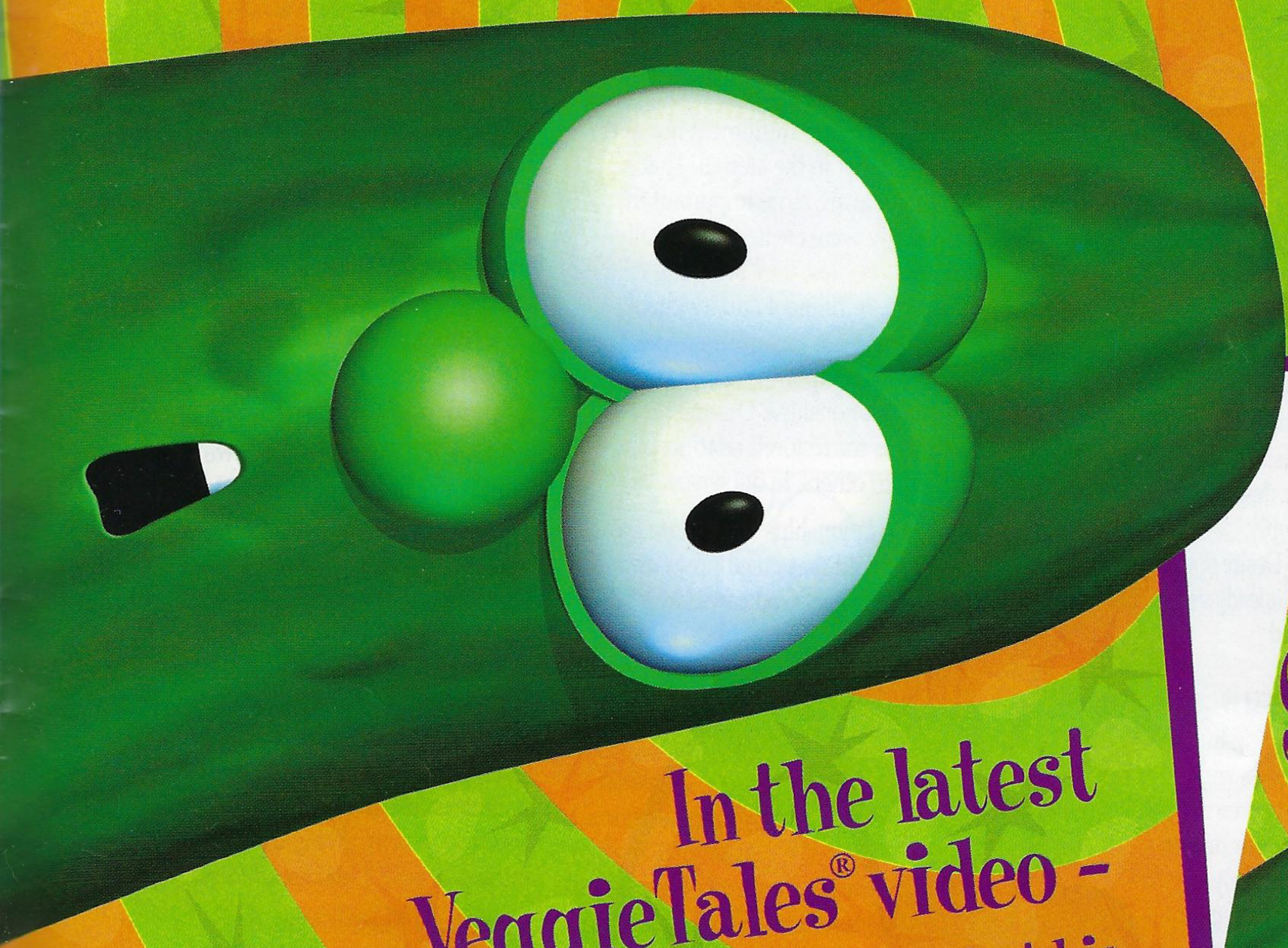
X	G	R	L	X	L	U	F	K	N	A	H	T	V
B	O	B	N	D	B	A	B	U	C	S	S	S	R
U	D	Q	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	S	G	E	O
T	R	A	M	F	F	U	T	S	O	A	T	C	R
T	R	A	C	I	J	U	L	E	M	E	M	U	E
E	N	P	S	E	I	P	E	L	P	P	A	A	Y
R	I	A	I	E	T	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	A
F	B	L	U	E	B	E	R	R	Y	N	A	S	R
L	C	R	A	N	O	T	R	E	E	X	M	W	P
Y	E	C	N	A	R	F	Z	W	E	O	E	F	
T	O	Y	T	R	A	I	N	N	T	O			

In Search of Stuff

Search this shopping cart for the words listed here. Remember, the words can go up, down, backwards and even at an angle!

BUTTERFLY
FRANCE
FRIENDS
TOY TRAIN
STUFF MART
TREE
BUTLER
SAUCES
CART
TEA
THANKFUL
GOD
PRAYER
PIE
BOB
MADAME
SCUBA
PEAS
PICTURES

Is this the End of Silliness?

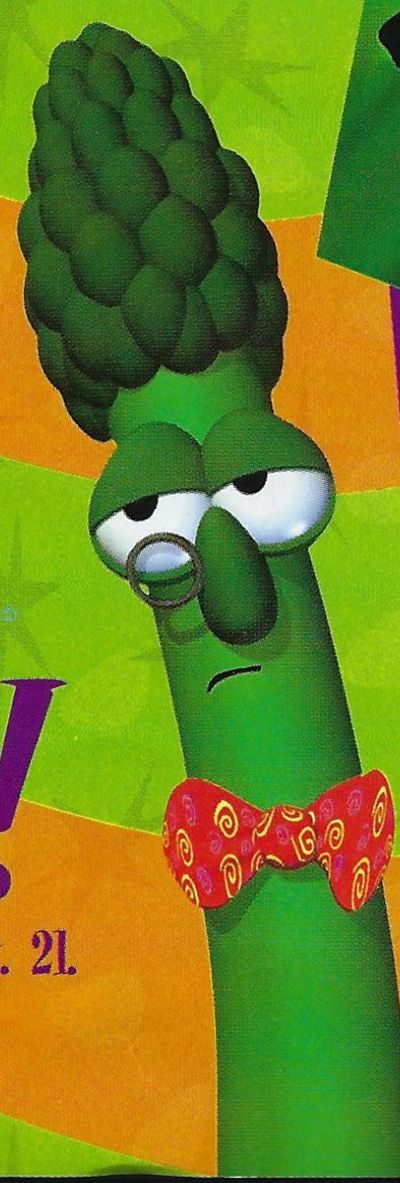


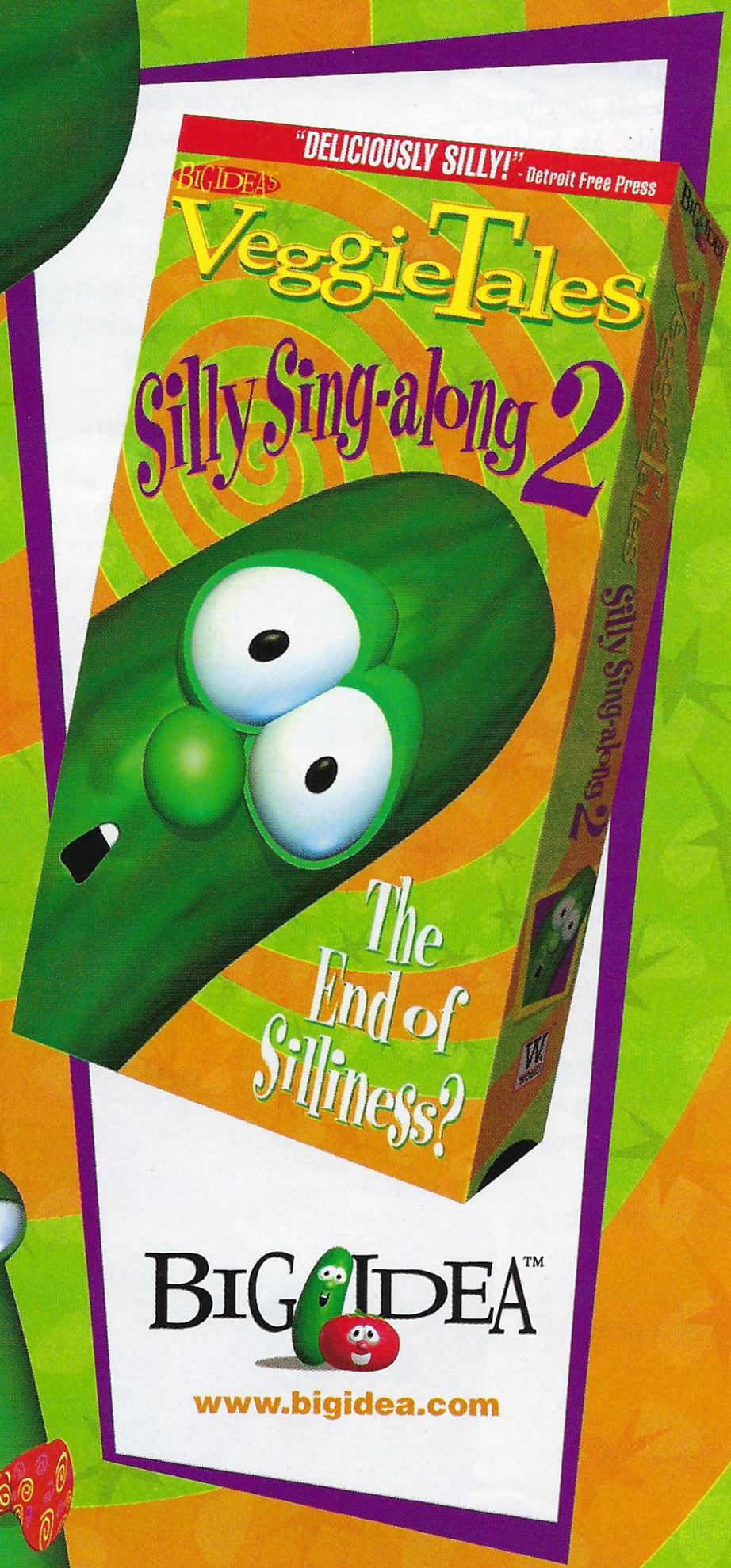
In the latest VeggieTales® video -

"Madame Blueberry" - Larry the Cucumber lost his job as the host of "Silly Songs with Larry!"

Will Archibald look kindly on this forlorn cucumber and give him his job back? Or is this the end of Silly Songs?

Find out by watching the next VeggieTales video...





Silly Sing-along 2!

Available exclusively in Christian Bookstores Nov. 21.

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Confessions of a "Grumpy

by Lisa Vischer

My kids aren't the only victims of greed in our house. Yes, sometimes even I am a "grumpy berry." Our house lacks landscaping (a budgeting oversight), and shrubs are my latest source of discontent. My husband wants land to build a bigger studio. My daughter wants a Nintendo®. My toddler? Everything on TV! When it comes to "stuff," I confess I'm no expert at maintaining "a happy heart." But as parents, it is our job to teach and model thankfulness.

To avoid resembling our latest character, Madame Blueberry, I need God's perspective.

I WANT!

So why is thankfulness important? Surprisingly, more is at stake here than "being greedy makes you grumpy." The mantra of our culture, "I want," fuels our greed and greatly impacts our value system. Media, a prime offender, mostly portrays outer beauty (not inner strength) and high standards of living (not high standards of character) as being most important. Children's programming is no exception! Advertisements promote relentless pursuit of "the good life," and credit cards promise to get us there. "Stuff" is everywhere and someone always has more.

In "Madame Blueberry," Bob asks Larry, "How much stuff do you need to be happy?" A perplexed Larry replies, "I don't know... how much stuff is there?" If anyone would know, it would be Israel's wealthiest monarch, King Solomon. Throughout the book of Ecclesiastes he proclaims that all things "under the sun" are completely "meaningless"—pursuing them is as pointless as "chasing after the wind"(5:10). The richest man in the world found that money alone leaves a person dissatisfied and empty.

Jerry Sheveland says in "Contentment: When More Is Not Enough," that "the objects of our desires are not necessarily wrong — simply inadequate." Desire itself isn't bad, for it leads us to identify and evaluate our emptiness. Greed is the result of trying to fill this emptiness with things. Our children need help aligning their desires with what they truly need. But this is no easy task! To do so requires understanding the nature of our deepest longings.

I NEED!

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says that God has "set eternity in the hearts of mankind," meaning we find fulfillment not in the temporal, but in the eternal. That's why people are more important than things. We were created specifically for relationships; they bring life meaning, fulfillment and inevitably pain, for we are imperfect people. I believe that emptiness comes from broken relationships. Our deepest longing is for restored relationships—to God, to others, to ourselves.

Broken relationships help create the void that greed preys upon. Does God care? Does He want to fill this void? Jesus' promise of "living water" in John 4 illustrates God's desire to permanently quench the thirst of our deepest needs. In pursuing a restored relationship with God, our children can follow us to the source of true contentment.

Thankfulness shifts our focus from things to God. Greed, which robs us of joy, is not part of His plan. Solomon understood that the ability to accept and enjoy life is a gift from God that He wants to give us (Ecclesiastes 5:19-20).

Receiving it involves choosing to be thankful. In Philippians 4:6-7, we're told to offer up our prayers and requests with thankful hearts. Why? So that "the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds." Being thankful for the ability to be in relationship to God and to fully enjoy His blessings guards against fear, greed, anxiety and discontentment. Thankfulness is a tool for happy heart maintenance! And when we use it, God responds by giving us His peace and joy.

As Madame Blueberry discovers, "a thankful heart is a happy heart." I want my children to be happy — not "grumpy berries!" My job as a parent is to show them how to fill up on what truly satisfies—pursuing restored relationships with God and each other. "The Thankfulness Song" teaches us to appreciate blessings like family, friends, a home, creation and God's love. My kids must see that nothing stands in the way of choosing a thankful, happy heart today. Not even shrubs.

BERRY"

Tips to Curb Greed and Promote Thankfulness

▶ ***Gift philosophy:*** I was taught, "whether small or large, don't miss God's gift to you every day." Teach your kids to look for evidence of God's goodness. And keep your own journal of ways God shows His love for you.

▶ ***Happy meals:*** Does the prize make rewards necessary and healthier options impossible?

▶ ***Thankful Box:*** Write down things to be thankful for and answered prayer requests and make a box to put them in. (Kids, too!) Start now, and read them aloud for a very meaningful Thanksgiving.

▶ ***Mute commercials:*** A way to help minimize the impacts of advertising.

▶ ***What we say:*** Saying "we don't have enough money for that" makes a child feel insecure about the family's resources. It also assumes that unlimited funds are a desired solution. "That is not a wise use of our money" conveys adequate resources that are controlled through responsible spending.

▶ ***The $5 rule:*** When kids travel, send along some extra money designated to be given away for a "special need" (e.g. a child at camp without spending money). This trains them to see the needs of others and to share — money well spent!

▶ ***Saving:*** Avoid creating impatience or disinterest from waiting too long by determining age-appropriate saving goals. Our children are ages 8 and 4 and are 'team-saving' for a guinea pig!

▶ ***Imagination:*** Kids need less "stuff" and more opportunities to discover their innate ability to entertain themselves.

▶ ***Giving:*** Give regularly to those who have less through donations, charity and hospitality. Make a meal for a new mom, visit a nursing home, invite a missionary or neighbor to dinner, support a third-world child, donate unneeded furniture, clothes, toys, etc. Be creative and involve the kids!

▶ ***Clothing budgets:*** Allow your child to be responsible for all clothing purchases after determining an appropriate clothing allowance. Growing up, I learned to spend conservatively and understand the thrill of a good bargain!

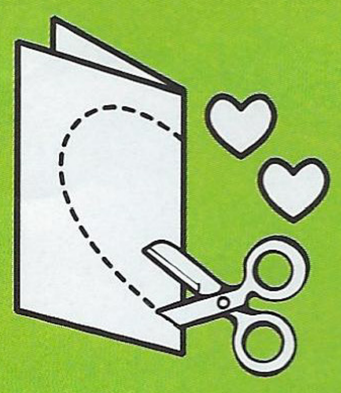
▶ ***Living Treasures:*** Let your kids know how thankful you are for them — they are priceless gifts!

Thankful Frame-full!

Remember Madame Blueberry's mantle full of framed pictures? Each picture was of something she thought she needed to make her happy. But, she learned that things can't make a person happy. Here is a frame you can make for your mantle or refrigerator. But instead of filling it with pictures of things that you think will make you happy, fill it with things that you already have — things for which you are thankful! Remember, a thankful heart is a happy heart!

Supplies:

- *2 pieces of poster board cut into 6" x 8" rectangles*
- *1 sheet of colored construction paper*
- *Household glue and scissors*
- *Corrugated cardboard strips*
- *Self-adhesive magnet strips*



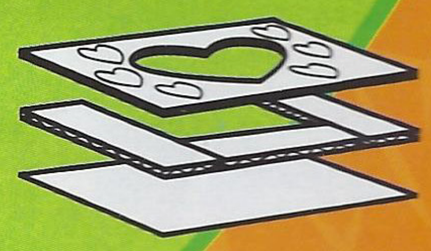
Instructions:

For the frame front:

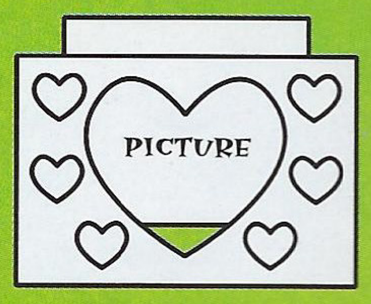
1. Fold the poster board in half and cut a heart out of the front (make sure the heart is about 5" wide and 7" tall).
2. Cut out five or six small hearts from the construction paper.
3. Glue the hearts to one side of the "heart mat" you just made. making sure not to cover the opening of the mat. Set aside to dry.

For the frame back:

1. Cut pieces of (1"wide) corrugated cardboard strips, to fit both sides and the bottom of the mat. (You will have three total pieces.)
2. Glue the cardboard pieces on the sides and bottom of the mat. Make sure the cardboard strips are even with the edges of the mat. Set aside to dry. (Now, when you attach the back of your frame you will be able to slide photos in and out from the top.)

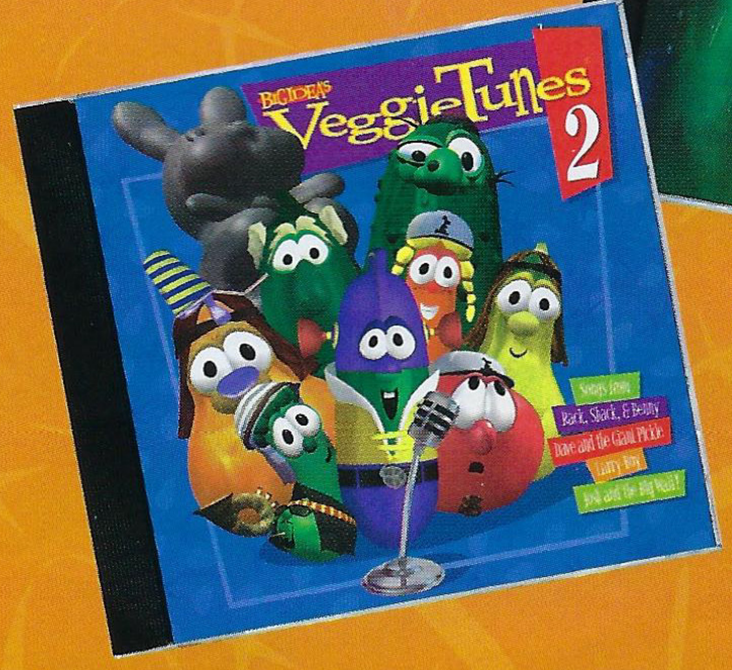


3. Glue the back mat (cardboard strip side in) to the front mat (heart side out).
4. Next, glue a magnet strip across the top of the back of your frame.
5. Last, but not least, insert a photo of something you are thankful for to complete your Thankful Frame-full!



VeggieTunes® for VeggieFans!

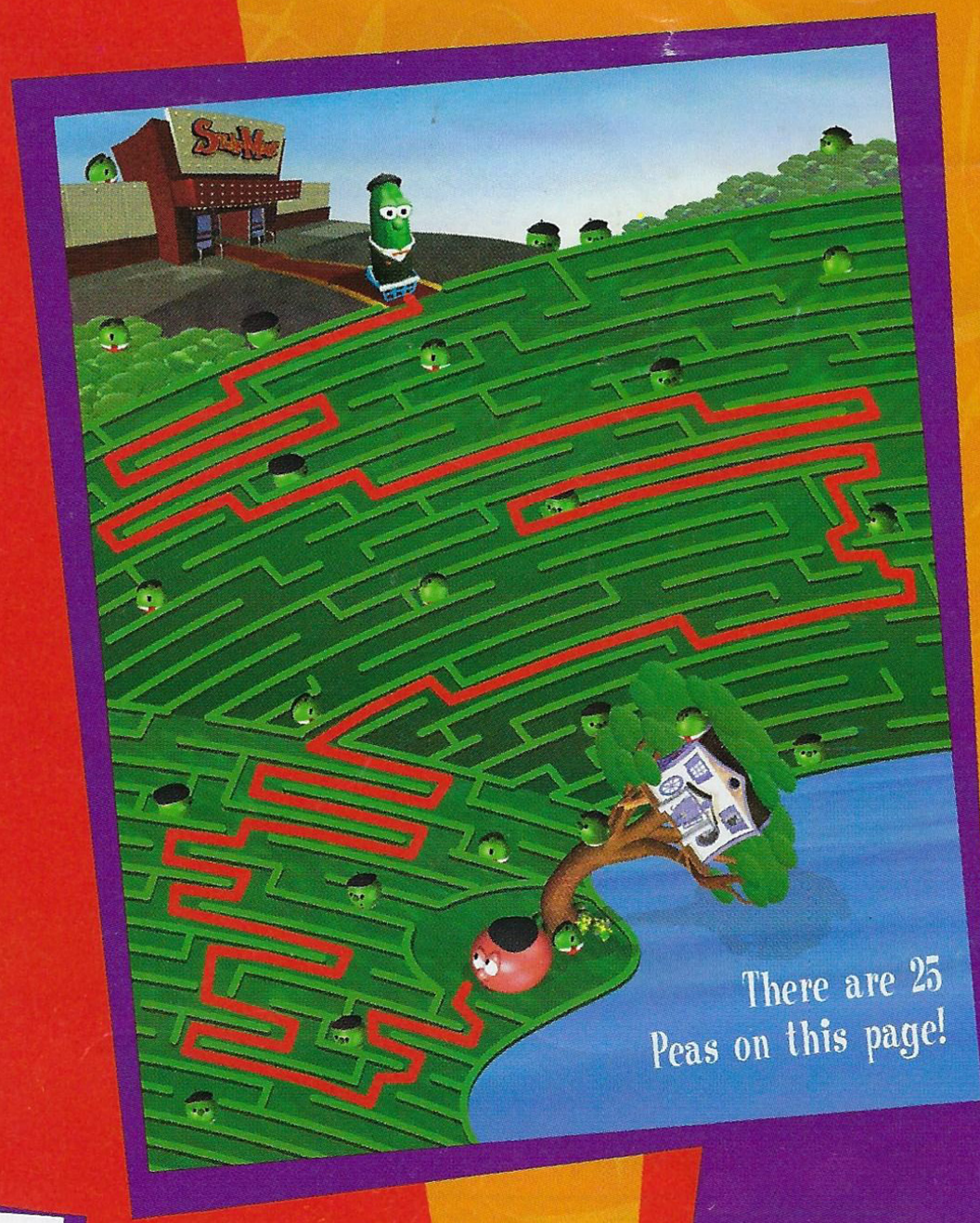
The original VeggieTunes
Songs include *The Water Buffalo Song, Fear Not Daniel, We Are The Grapes of Wrath, Busy, Busy, The Hairbrush Song, I Can Be Your Friend* plus lots more!



VeggieTunes 2!
Songs include *The Dance of The Cucumber, The New and Improved Bunny Song, Stand, I Love My Lips, Larry-Boy, Keep Walking,* and many more favorites!

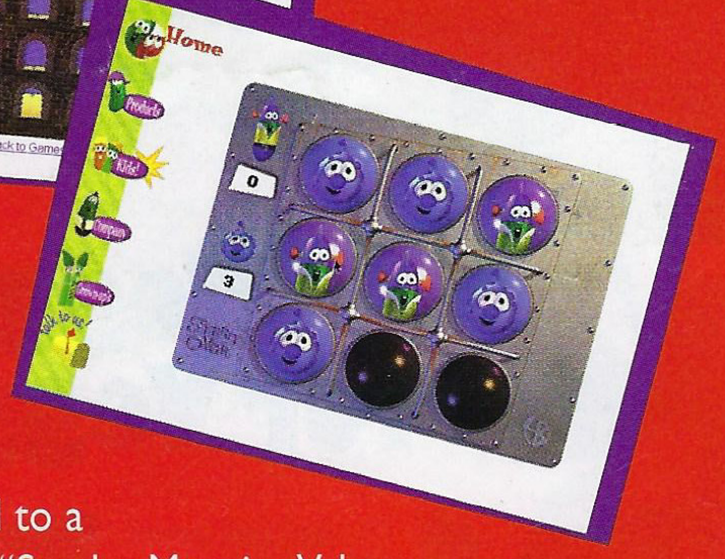
Now available on CD and cassette!

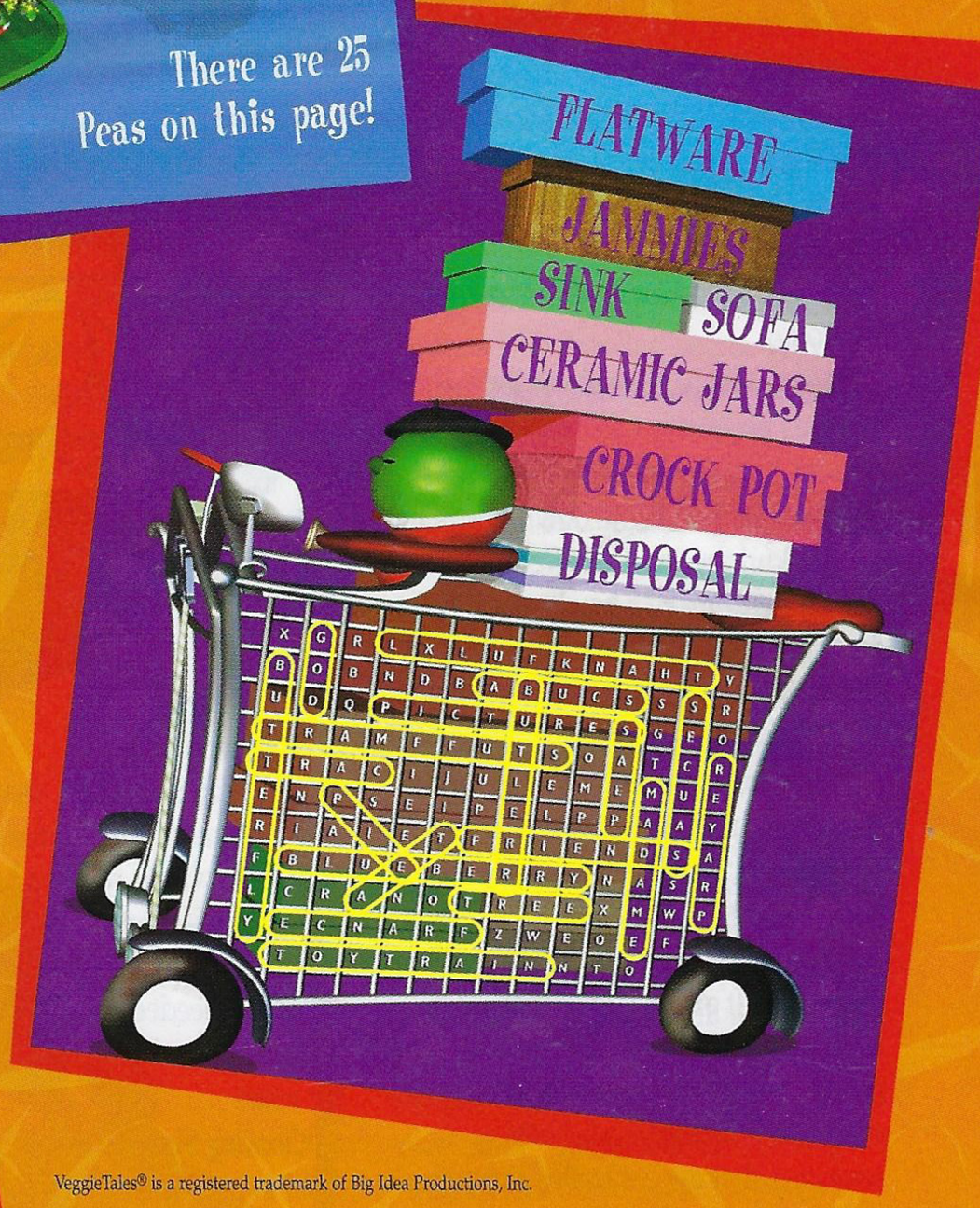
Visit our website and have some fun!



Ignore this page!

At least until you've solved the puzzles inside this issue! (Cause the answers are right here)





You'll find games, coloring pages and all kinds of info about your favorite Veggie characters! And, you can even send an official VeggeTale post card to a friend on the web! So, for "Sunday Morning Values, Saturday Morning Fun," check us out at

www.bigidea.com

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